

## "Welcome" Pre-Shabbat Dinner

Friday, June 15, 6:15 pm

Here's what the Jew in the Pew is saying about our monthly dinners:

- \*\*\* "I started the evening not knowing a soul; by the dessert, I had two new friends."
- \*\*\*\*\* "Better than the Oneg Room for getting the scoop on CSZ happenings."
- \*\*\*\* "I have to eat before services. Might as well do it with the folks at CSZ."

Please join the Membership Committee for our monthly "Welcome" Pre-Shabbat Dinner on the third Friday of every month. This month we will dine and dish at Zao Noodle Bar, 16th and Market Streets, on June 15. This informal "pay-your-own-way" gathering is for prospective members, new members and seasoned members to get to know each other in a more informal and relaxed setting.

Please RSVP to either Marc Wernick (415/928-7883, mhwernick@aol.com) or the office (415/861-6932, office@shaarzahav.org). We look forward to having you join us.

## CSZ Celebrates Israel!

Munching on falafel and hummus, the CSZ Israel Havurah held its first gathering of the millennium on Yom Ha'atzmaut - Israel Independence Day - on April 26. The evening began with a celebratory dinner held jointly with the Ritual Committee, at which Rabbi Angel invoked a participatory blessing. Those present expressed their hopes for peace, safety, freedom and tolerance in Israel.

Attendees included women and men, new members and old, native sabras and Americans who have visited Israel only once or twice. Despite their varieties of experience, all agreed that Israel plays an important role in their lives, and that there is a strong need to enhance the level of awareness and understanding of Israel within the CSZ community. "That's why we're all here," said Miki Goralsky, who was raised in Israel and who serves as co-chair of the Israel Havurah.

Together, the group drafted a mission statement and a set of goals, with members tossing out thoughts and ideas, and co-chair Ron Lezell recording them. The statement reads, in part, "Our relationship to Israel is central to our identity as Jewish Americans and as members of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav. We are com

## Art Shabbaton: Creating Works of Beauty

"Let us praise the Eternal One who has implanted within us the ability to create and appreciate works of beauty." This blessing came to life at CSZ with the first annual Art Shabbaton on April 20-22. As the music of Karen Segal and Nicole Bloom opened our hearts to prayer at the Kabbalat Shabbat service, we began a journey. Rabbi Angel's inspiring words, Marsha Attie's moving dance, Ruby Cymrot-Wu's reading of the poetry of the Holocaust, and the soothing song of "Peace to My Brothers and Friends," moved us from Holocaust remembrance to rebirth, creativity, and life.



Photo by Batya Kalis,  
Sara Haber, Rabbi Angel, Phyllis Mintzer,  
Jeanette Nichols, Daryl Goldman

"The Art Shabbaton was an inspiring experience filled with creativity, imagination, passion and joy. We used our hearts, hands and minds as we fulfilled the mitzvah of *Hiddur*, making our sacred space even more beautiful. I am already looking forward to the next Art Shabbaton," said Rabbi Camille Angel. "Everyone was happy!"

Saturday focused on music, contemplation, study, drama,  
*continued on page 4*

## Kol Yad Campaign Reminder

Our Kol Yad (Every Hand) fundraising campaign is now in full swing and continues until June 3. We ask everyone, members and friends, to contribute the value of one day of your work to keep our congregation financially strong. If you have not yet sent in your pledge form (included with last month's JGF; more are available at CSZ), we hope you will take the time to do so now.

We also invite everyone to join us for our first annual Kol Yad Celebration on June 3. We will start at about 12:15 pm, at the conclusion of our Annual Congregational Meeting. Come enjoy good food, music and spirit, and help us honor and thank our first year Kol Yad contributors.



Rabbi Angel

*Just as a person lights one candle from another and the original flame is not diminished, so too, we are never lessened when we pass our internal flame to another person.*

*Numbers Rabbah 13:19*

Looking back on my first ten months with Sha'ar Zahav, through my transition, I cannot imagine a more responsive, attentive, confident and articulate president than David Gellman. I have so appreciated David's mindful guardianship, which I believe has served me and our congregation exceedingly well. With love and devotion, David has shepherded us, carefully focusing on the present while keeping a watchful eye on the big picture. I have benefited from our regular and frequent meetings and have felt fortunate that in spite of David's many professional responsibilities, he has always put me and the synagogue's business first.

David Gellman will leave an indelible mark upon the history and destiny of Sha'ar Zahav. I would like to thank him personally for his work and for our friendship. He leaves the presidency in great hands, as Lisa Katz, a long-time devoted member of our Congregation and a leader of rare conviction and commitment, assumes the presidency on July 1. Best wishes to both distinguished leaders.

I want to thank each of the officers and Vaad members who have completed

*continued on page 10*

## Rabbi Liaison Committee Update

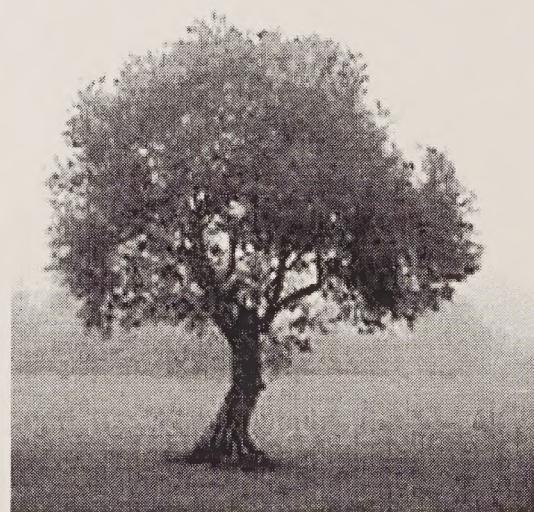
Since its formation last fall, the Rabbi Liaison Committee has met approximately monthly to support Rabbi Angel as she assumes the complex and demanding responsibilities of her rabbinate. Our meetings have been devoted to three areas of support: planning and hosting the parlor sessions for members to meet and interact with Rabbi Angel, clarifying specific expectations and helping her establish reasonable parameters and priorities within her general job description, and listening to her as she reflects upon various issues that she wishes to think through with us. We also report on feedback that we have received from congregants.

Recently we have discussed the structure of our committee in terms of tenure and composition. We feel that all current members should remain on the committee for a year. After that, some members will rotate off to allow for new voices or constituencies to be represented, while maintaining the continuity and effective working relationship that we are developing. As we stated in our letter to the congregation last fall, we welcome your input in addition to any direct communication that you feel comfortable directing to Rabbi Angel. You may address any communication to Allan Gold, Chair, via email (agold8946@aol.com) or via a letter to the office.

## Olive Trees For Peace

*Etz chayim hi l'makhazikim bah - Etz chayim hi, l'shalom*

*A Tree of Life she is, for those who hold her close -A Tree of Life for Shalom.*



justice for all. This year plant a seed of hope and work actively towards bringing peace to the Middle East.

Please join us at Congregation Sha'ar Zahav on June 2, when Ilan Vitemberg will discuss the 2001 Trees of Hope Campaign sponsored by the Coalition of Jews for Justice, and A Jewish Voice for Peace, Bay Area coalitions working for

peace between Israelis and Palestinians. You are invited to arrive at 6 pm for a light dinner, followed at 6:30 by the presentation and discussion. Havdalah will follow.

This event is part of an International Campaign in coordination with the Israeli organization Rabbis for Human Rights, the only Israeli rabbinic organization that includes Reform, Orthodox, Conservative and Reconstructionist rabbis.

For more information, please contact CSZ Program Director Dahlia Gross at [cszdahlia@yahoo.com](mailto:cszdahlia@yahoo.com) or 415/575-4961.

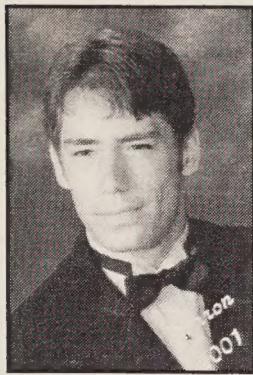
## Annual Congregational Seder a Success

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav's members, together with family and friends, gathered on the second night of Passover for our annual community seder. Over 150 people joined together to tell the story of our Exodus from Egypt.

It was wonderful to have the seder led for the very first time by Rabbi Camille Angel along with one of our founders, Daniel Chesir, and seasoned seder leader Sarita Groisser.

Special thanks to Mike Klayman, Prudence Carter and Jeff Sherman for making charoset in quantity and variety to satisfy every palate. Thanks also to the set-up crew, Andrea Guerra, Dvora Honigstein, Nol Simonse and Jeff Sherman and to on-site coordinator, Rose Katz.

## Congregation Sha'ar Zahav from Cradle to College *by Lisa Ochs*



Danvers Street, and whose earliest memories of CSZ include falling asleep under the pews.

When we asked Aaron about his best memories of CSZ, the first name he mentioned was his Kadimah teacher, Phyllis Mintzer. "I think Phyllis has been an important influence in my life because she's such a great person. She's one of the reasons that I try to be a great person, too. She gave so much support. When I was little and fooling around in class, she'd put her hand on my shoulder and calm me down." Aaron also has very fond memories of Rabbi Kahn, another great influence. Aaron also wants to thank his moms, Diana Buchbinder and Joyce Garay; his bar mitzvah tutor, Howard Goldberg; Daniel Chesir, who taught him trope; Sandrine Hahn, his teacher; and George Muntzer, "because he has always been kind and helpful to me."

Aaron enjoyed Kadimah. "The Hebrew School was pretty small. Evan Kuluk's class was one class above mine. They were always the big kids. We looked up to them so much. It was a nice experience." Although he remembers being pretty nervous at his bar mitzvah, he was relieved that it went well. "It was fun watching the older kids' bar mitz-

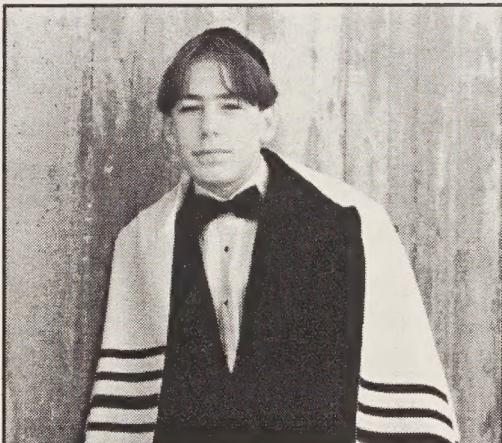
vahs. I especially remember Max Ross-off Nichols'." Since graduating from Kadimah, Aaron has returned to tutor Adam Sigal and Aaron Goldman-Maclachlan.

One thing he particularly liked about CSZ as a child, Aaron reports, is that "you were allowed to have fun. I probably would have been resistant to a much more formal synagogue," Aaron says. "I might not have managed to get the education that I did or wish to continue. I think Sha'ar Zahav set the foundation. After Kadimah, I realized that I wanted to do something with my Jewish education. The underlying Jewish principles helped shape me as a person. A lot of who I am comes from my experiences at Sha'ar Zahav."

It was after his bar mitzvah, Aaron says, that Judaism took on heightened importance. "I think that's when you realize what Judaism, your education, background and beliefs mean to you. That's what I found at Midrasha. I started to value it on my own and just incorporated it." Midrasha holds classes on Sundays for Bay Area Jewish teenagers. Aaron has been attending classes since eighth grade and graduates this month. "Each year you study a different core curriculum and also take electives. Classes range from Jewish identity, Bible study and Kabbalah to Hebrew and Yiddish. It's really great to get together with other Jewish people from other places in the Bay Area and just share ideas. You talk about your faith and your experiences." Aaron's favorite class has been Jewish Mysticism. "Midrasha is a good way to build relationships and stay in touch. It's really intellectually stimulating. You

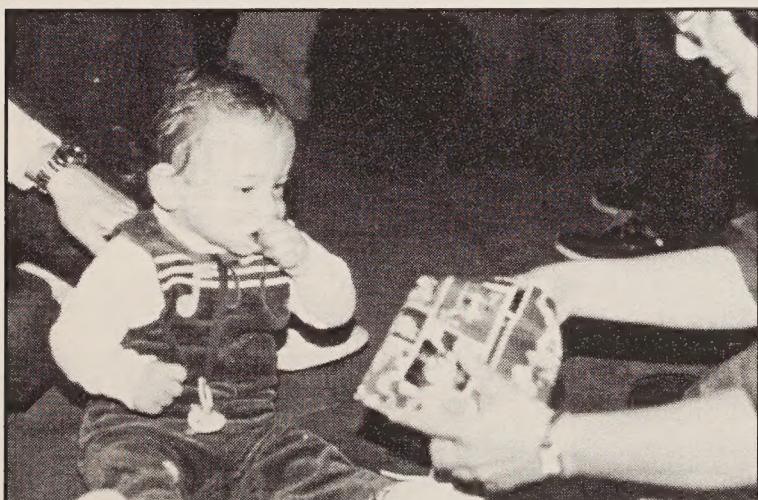
can relax, think and trade ideas. It's hands-on and up-to-date. It's cool."

In addition to attending Midrasha, Aaron enjoys listening to and playing music. He has played football and soccer and is taking three advanced placement classes. In the fall he will attend U.C. Santa Cruz, where he plans to study psychology. Over winter break Aaron travelled to Nicaragua with a group and worked with a Peace Corps volunteer. After college he plans to join the Peace Corps.



As if all that weren't enough, Aaron has chanted Torah several times at CSZ High Holiday services. "My sister and I used to dread it," he said. "My mom would just sign us up and then she'd tell us two weeks before the time. One year I made her chant it with me." Despite this, Aaron appreciates the uniqueness of CSZ. "It ties together gays and lesbians and Jews so I associate both of them in my mind. Being in a Jewish atmosphere and in an open-minded atmosphere, are both really great for me. I started off in a position where I can see the world differently from everybody else. I think it definitely

*continued on page 10*



## CRITTER FRITTERS



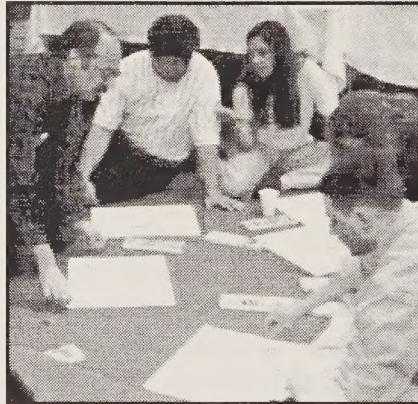
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improvisation, reading from Lou Hirschmann's novel, and ended with Israeli dancing. Sunday workshops included making tallit bags, mizrachim, cartooning, dancing Hebrew letters, silk painting and a dramatic reading. The children enjoyed tie-dying, mural painting, fimo sculpting and nigunim chanting, as did many adults.

The centerpiece of the weekend was the creation of a wonderful silk-painted banner to adorn our synagogue. It was a collaborative effort, involving text study, discussion, interpretation and the development of a design under the guidance of Nancy Katz, artist-in-residence. Even people who denied any artistic ability proudly created a communal work of art based on a quote from *Pirke Avot (Sayings of Our Ancestors)*.

We wish to thank the many people who contributed: Rabbi Angel, the Va'ad, the service leaders, artists and other workshop leaders (*madrichim*), aides, office staff, greeters, those who set up and cleaned up, and everyone else who helped out. Thanks to: Rabbi Camille Angel, Steve Weitz, Jonathan Funk, Nicole Bloom, Ruby Cymrot-Wu, Karen Segal, Marsha Attie, Ruth Rainero, Eva Konigsberg, José Luis Mosco-



*Photo by Batya Kalis.  
Joe Hample, Reiters Sussbilla,  
Lea Salem, Lisa Ochs, Ray Bernstein*

vich, Rachel Kriegman, Alan Gordon, Phyllis Mintzer, Riqi Kosovske, Greer Hauptman, Ali Cannon, Aisha Berger, Rebecca Wiener, Darah Wallsten, Lou Hirschmann, Ellen Goldstein, Barbara Cymrot, Jeanette Nichols, Nancy Katz, Beth Sousa, Caryn Aviv, Ann Aptaker, Jeni Markowitz, Jaron Kanegson, Andrea Guerra, Amy Clark, Debbie Levy, Trudi Hauptman, Simcha Greenspan, Terry Baum, Dahlia Gross, Lea Salem, Melanie Kushnir, Max, Megan Saperstein, Nol Simonse, James Carlson, Diana Buchbinder, Marc Wernick, Lyssa Friedman, Ida Kuluk, Annie Downs, Marjorie Hilsenrad, Tory Weiser, Batya Kalis, Daryl Goldman, Ray Bernstein, Lonnie Weiss, Rachel MacLachlan and Nancy Silverrod. We also want to thank all the participants who created in so many ways and took risks to share themselves.

This is only the beginning. The Art Shabbaton kicked off a month of artistic activities at CSZ. If you are interested in facilitating art activities at CSZ, feel free to contact Barbara Cymrot, Jeanette Nichols or Phyllis Mintzer through Dahlia Gross at 415/575-4961.

*Photo by Batya Kalis.  
Judy Macks and Dafna Wu*



## **Sukkot in April Another Success!**

On April 29, the sun came up bright and clear as we assembled at the Ingleside home of Alma Abney. Over two dozen volunteers, under the kind, enthusiastic and highly competent leadership of our Crew Captain, Josh Greenblatt, spent the day accomplishing a whole host of chores for Ms. Abney.

We were able to repaint the exterior of her home, remove and replace a steel security door, and completely rebuild her front steps. Most dramatic was the change in the backyard: chaotic, knee-high weeds were transformed into a neat and tidy garden with a new retaining wall, multiple beds of annuals and a small vegetable patch. Inside the house we hung new fixtures, put up some shelving and installed new locks.

Thanks to all the folks from our Sha'ar Zahav family who made so dramatically concrete the concept of *Tikkun Olam* (repairing the world). (Apologies in advance for any typos and omissions, as some of the names on our sign-up sheet were difficult to read.) Thanks to: Josh Greenblatt, Laura Lowe, Alex Ingersoll, Richard Brand, Nancy Brunn, Alex Davido, David Gorbet, Jennifer Gorbet, Alan Gordon, Beth Gould, Tia Koret Pierce, Clarissa Kripke, Nancy Levin, Gail Ludwig, Ron Miguel, Michael Schaffer, Ruthy Talansky, Darah Wallsten, Abby Wizansky, Anthony Talansky, Prudence Carter, E. Gould, Jeff Piade, Janis Portal, Richard Meyerson, Susan Buseck.

If picking up a tool (or even a frying pan) to help repair our world sounds like fun, please contact Laura Lowe of our Social Action Committee and get involved.

*Earnings Devoted to Philanthropy*

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**The Jewish Gaily Forward** is published 11 times a year (monthly with a combined July-August issue) by Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 290 Dolores St., San Francisco, CA 94103, 415/861-6932. Email: [office@shaarzahav.org](mailto:office@shaarzahav.org). Permission to reprint with attribution is hereby granted.

Members of the congregation receive the *Forward* as part of their membership. Nonmembers can receive a *Forward* subscription for \$36/year.

Note that articles reflect the opinions of their author and not necessarily those of the congregation or its committees.

#### Members of the Newsletter Committee

- *Chair and Editorial Coordinator:* Karen Schiller
- *Editing/Proofreading/Layout:* Judith Cohen, Marjorie Hilsenrad, Brian Jersky, Rose Katz, Joey Rozier, Kerri Schiff, David Stein
- *Advertising:* Roslyn Fuerman (510/526-1209 or [froslyn@earthlink.net](mailto:froslyn@earthlink.net))
- *Design and Layout:* Kerri Schiff
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**Display Ads** are \$15 per column inch for nonmembers and \$10 per column inch for members with discounts available for size and frequency. Ads should be camera ready; any ads that require typesetting, camera and/or artwork will be subject to a one-time production charge.

**Classified Ads** are \$5 for up to 20 words, plus \$1 for each 10 additional words.

Payment must accompany ads and should be sent to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 290 Dolores St., San Francisco, California, 94103, marked: attention Forward advertising. We reserve the right to reject any ad.

June 2001 Volume 24, Issue 9.



## Pinat Mishpachah

### Family Corner



Kadimah had an amazing year this time around. With huge successes in pilot family education programs such as our Family Kabbalat Shabbat Dinner and Service, and our new Ga'avah parent and child class, we had a blast!

This year's Kitah Vav class explored the Bay Area with eyes open wide, Kitah Bet worked hard gathering tzedakah, Kitah Hay studied world Jewry, and Kitah Gimel told stories of heroes past and present.

We can't wait to begin another year in the fall. We wish you kayitz tov (a good summer), and we'll meet you in the fall ready to roar!

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# June-Sivan/Tammuz

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

**JULY/AUGUST DEADLINE MONDAY, JUNE 4 AT 5 PM**

**ARTICLES**

Please submit your articles as a Word attachment file via email to:  
kschiller@igc.org. *No late submissions will be accepted.*

**ADVERTISING**

To place a display ad, contact Roslyn Fuerman (510/526-1209  
or froslyn@earthlink.net). To place a classified ad, call the office.

**3** 12 Sivan

- 10:30 am - Congregational Meeting  
please see *important information below*
- 12:15 pm - Kol Yad Celebration

**4** 13 Sivan

- 2-3 pm - Healing Service with Bay Area Jewish Healing Center

**5** 14 Sivan

- 6-7 pm - Prayerbook Hebrew with Phyllis Mintzer

**6**

- 7 pm - JGF New Editing

**10** 19 Sivan

- 7 pm - JGF Newsletter Layout

**11** 20 Sivan

- 6:30 pm - Va'ad Meeting

**12** 21 Sivan

- 6-7 pm - Prayerbook Hebrew with Phyllis Mintzer

**13**

**17** 26 Sivan

**18** 27 Sivan

**19** 28 Sivan

**20**

**24** 3 Tammuz

**25** 4 Tammuz

**26** 5 Tammuz

**27**

Pride Parade

## Annual Meeting Materials Transmitted Electronically

Please join us for the annual congregational meeting on June 3rd at 10:30 am. This year we will be voting on proposals to modify the Bylaws Dues Policy of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav as well as on the proposed budget and the Officers and Va'ad members for the coming year.

CSZ policy is to provide the entire membership with a packet in advance of the annual meeting. This year in an effort to save paper, time and money we have posted these materials on a special section of our website and which is accessible only to members. We have also sent a hard copy to anyone whom we do not have a current email address. If you cannot access the electronic file or would prefer to receive a hard copy please contact the office.

Please note that dates, times and locations sometimes get changed after the *Forward* is published. Call the office if you need us.

THURSDAY			FRIDAY			SHABBAT		
			1	10 Sivan	2	Shabbat Nasso	11 Sivan	
15 Sivan	7	16 Sivan	8	Lag B'Omer 17 Sivan	9	Shabbat Beha'aloscha	18 Sivan	
er				• 8:10 pm - Candle Lighting • 8:15 pm - Shabbat Services led by <i>Rabbi Angel and Ruth Schoenbach</i>		• 9 am - Torah Study • 10 am - Shabbat Services led by <i>Ora Prochovnick</i> • 1-2:15 pm - Meditation Havurah • 6 pm - Trees for Peace Discussion and Havdalah		
22 Sivan	14	23 Sivan	15	24 Sivan	16	Shabbat Shelach	25 Sivan	
				• 6:15 pm - Welcome Dinner • 7:15 pm - East Bay Potluck and Services • 8:13 pm - Candle Lighting • 8:15 pm - Shabbat Services led by <i>Nicole Bloom, Randy Weiss and Josh Shuster Lefkowitz</i>		• 9 am - Torah Study • 10 am - Shabbat Services led by <i>Alan Gordon and Ina Fried</i> • 1-2:15 pm - Meditation Havurah		
Sivan	21	30 Sivan	22	1 Tammuz	23	Shabbat Korach	1 Tammuz	
			• 7 pm - Adult Education Meeting	• 6:15 pm - Shabbat Pride Dinner • 8:15 pm - Candle Lighting • 8:15 pm - Gay Pride Shabbat Services led by <i>Rabbi Angel and Steve Weitz</i>		• 9 am - Torah Study • 10 am - Shabbat Services led by <i>Rabbi Angel and Michael Sarid</i> • 1-2:15 pm - Meditation Havurah		
6 Tammuz	28	7 Tammuz	29	8 Tammuz	30	Shabbat Chukat	9 Tammuz	
				• 8:16 pm - Candle Lighting • 8:15 pm - Shabbat Services led by <i>Mark Gershman and Lyssa Friedman</i> Aufruf of <i>Mike Bromberg and Ken Repp</i>		• 9 am - Torah Study • 10 am - Shabbat Services • 1-2:15 pm - Meditation Havurah		

### Corrections:

In the April issue of the JGF, the naches for Ali Cannon should have read: "To Ali Cannon, on his recent production of *Chutzpah: Homeland, A Queer Jewish Show* which recently ran at Luna Sea Theater." We apologize for mis-identifying him. Ali is a proud transgender member of our congregation. He identified as a lesbian for many years and carries that history with him.

And, in the May issue of the JGF, the final naches should have read: "To Greer Hauptman and Aaron Buchbinder on their graduation from Midrasha...". Our sincerest apologies to Aaron for the mistake.

# Why Is This Member Different From All Other Members? *by Marc Wernick*



Howard Rubin is that nice Jewish boy that your mother always talks about. He is bright, articulate... and a doctor! And for those of us who like people with a bit of an edge, Howard is not shy about expressing his point of view, often blending the rational and scientific with the cultural and creative.

Howard was born and raised "in the shadows of the Verrazano Narrows Bridge, in the land of Saturday Night fever, in that patch of green in the concrete jungle called Brooklyn" (his words, not mine). Perhaps his unique approach can be explained by the diverse experiences he had growing up. While raised in a Reform household, his parents sent him to a Conservative yeshiva for elementary school.

Howard came out "with a vengeance" in medical school and became active in the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual People in Medicine Task Force of the American Medical Association. In fact, he met his partner, Gene, at a gay medical school party shortly after he came out.

Howard became interested in the field of psychiatry in large part due to his exposure to Holocaust survivor and psychotherapist, Victor Frankel's works. In 1999, Howard finished his schooling and shifted to clinical work here in San Francisco. He is currently overseeing two outpatient clinics for the City of San Francisco. His work with the homeless outreach program is the most rewarding for him. "Often small interventions can mean a lot. We had a patient who carried around a radio. His radio was stolen. By replacing it, we really helped him. The sounds of the radio helped to distract him from the voices he was hearing."

Howard's process of integrating being Jewish and gay is interesting. "My father's reaction to my coming out was to label homosexuality a personality disorder against God," he explained. For most of the time he was in medical school, he really did

not actively practice Judaism. Later, he began to reassess things. "I took the day off for Yom Kippur, but I did not go to shul. I was angry. I ate," he explained.

But that experience started his search for more gay positive experiences. He joined the gay Jewish group in San Diego and later affiliated with BCC in Los Angeles. "I wanted to continue that terrific experience here in San Francisco, so I joined Sha'ar Zahav."

With June being Gay Pride month, the questions we asked Howard focused on themes of pride.

## *1. Why are you proud to be a Jew?*

"Being Jewish is an innate part of who I am. How can I not be?" retorts Howard. "Being Jewish is so fundamental to my being - it is the spiritual underpinning of my life, it is uppermost in my mind and my being, and it informs my actions and thoughts."

## *2. If you were to create a Jewish holiday that is similar to Pride, what would it look like?*

Howard would combine elements of Simchat Torah and Passover. "There would be dancing with the Torah and story-telling of freedom and liberation. We would take it to the streets!" he explains jubilantly. Howard explains his vision of the holiday from a spiritual standpoint: "The holiday would be about making the Jewish spirit and energy as accessible as possible to the entire community."

## *3. What is the relationship between Gay Pride and Judaism?*

"It is about coming to terms with, and celebrating, who you are," states Howard. He shares his feelings that it has at times been difficult to be a gay male Jew. "From my point of view, Judaism has not been so open to gay people. Judaism has always been so child oriented - 'You shall teach your child....' And my gay identity has made it difficult to pass things on to the next generation," he explains. Despite the tension Howard feels about this, he views Gay Pride as an opportunity to become more fully who you are and to challenge pre-existing barriers and prejudice.

## *4. There was been a lot of debate recently about the Conservative movement's point of view on same-sex marriages. What is your point of view?*

Howard views the discussion of the issue as an important first step in acknowledging and accepting homosexuality. "We can't afford to alienate our own. It is a *shanda* (a shame). Howard believes that some gays would feel more comfortable spiritually with a more Conservative liturgy, but because of the Reform movement's more progressive attitude towards homosexuality, they have found a home within the Reform movement. "This creates a different tension within a primarily GLBT synagogue," he notes.

We are very proud to have Howard as part of our community. Please join me in welcoming him to Sha'ar Zahav.

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**Batya Kalis**, in memory of Andrew West.

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**Batya Kalis**, in memory of Shirley Schickler.

**Ellen Berger Quan**.

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**Jerry Rosenstein**, in memory of Agnes Berenstein Schwartz.

**Jonathan Funk**, in memory of Agnes Berenstein Schwartz.

**Leyna Bernstein**, in memory of Sanford Bernstein.

**Marc Lipschutz**, in honor of Laura Lowe's becoming bat mitzvah.

**Stephanie Hannaford and Chris Witzel**, in memory of Agnes Berenstein Schwartz.

If you would like to make a donation, please contact the synagogue office.

## New Members

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce that our congregation gained the following new members this month. A warm welcome to the most recent people to join our family:

**Rod Leslie**  
**Janis Portal**

We are happy to see our congregation grow. It is up to all of us to help our new members feel welcome as they become active participants in our community.

## Bikkur Cholim Fund

**Lonnie Weiss**, in memory of Hyman Icke.

**Heather Fox**, in gratitude for the congregation's ongoing prayers, care and concern.

**Batya Kalis**, in memory of Agnes Berenstein Schwartz.

**Allan Berenstein**, in honor of Florence Nacamulli, Sharyn Saslafsky and Randy Weiss.

**Hal Podgur**, in memory of Agnes Berenstein Schwartz.

**Lea Salem and Lisa Ochs**, in memory of Agnes Berenstein Schwartz.

**Allan Berenstein**, in memory of Robert Stern.

**Steve Weiner**, in memory of Agnes Berenstein Schwartz.

**Rabbi Eric Weiss and Dan Alpert**, in memory of Agnes Berenstein Schwartz.

## Children's Education Fund

**Rabbi Eric Weiss and Dan Alpert**, in memory of Jerome Barr.

**Allan Berenstein**, in honor of the birth of Eliana Chalmers Frank

**Bobbie Becker**, in memory of Robert Becker.

**Fishman-Kane Family**, in memory of Clara Blumenthal.

**Allan Berenstein**, in honor of the anniversary of Phyllis and George Mintzer.

**Bobbie Becker**, in memory of Marty Becker.

**Phyllis and George Mintzer**, in honor of Aaron Buchbinder's and Greer Hauptman's graduating from Midrasha.

**Bobbie Becker and Ellen Press**, in memory of Reuven Closter.

**Fishman-Kane Family**, in memory of Elijah Silverrod MacLachlan.

**Lonnie Weiss**, in honor of the birth of Eliana Chalmers Frank.

**Fishman-Kane Family**, in honor of the birth of Eliana Chalmers Frank.

**Lisa Ochs**, in honor of Phyllis Mintzer.

**Steve Wiesner**, in honor of the birth of Eliana Chalmers Frank.

**Heather and David Fox**, in memory of Louise Fox.

## AIDS Fund

**Allan Berenstein**, in memory of Tom Yazman.

## Chesir-Stein Music Fund

**Rabbi Eric Weiss and Dan Alpert**, in honor of Jeff Friedman's status as ABD in his doctoral program.

## Prayerbook Fund

**Arthur Slepian and Gerry Llamado**, in honor of the birth of Eliana Chalmers Frank.

## Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

**Henrietta Lois Freedman**.

**Phyllis and George Mintzer**, in memory of Agnes Berenstein Schwartz.

**Sharyn Saslafsky**, in memory of Agnes Berenstein Schwartz.

**Jon Funk and John Arnold**, in honor of the anniversary of Rabbi Camille Angel and Karen Segal and in honor of Rabbi Angel's birthday.

**Rabbi Yoel Kahn**, in memory of Doug Porter.

**Prudence Carter**, in honor of Nicole Bloom.

**Phyllis and George Mintzer**, in memory of Ann Schmier.

**Allan Berenstein**, in appreciation of Rabbi Camille Angel's support.

**Arnie Jackson**, in memory of Phyllis Litman.

**Louisa Stone**.

**Allan Berenstein**, in honor of the anniversary of Rabbi Camille Angel and Karen Segal.

## Harvey Milk Social Action Fund

**Paul Cohen and Bob Guterman**, in memory of Agnes Berenstein Schwartz.

**Jim Frazin**, in memory of Morris Shapiro.

**Allan Berenstein**, in memory of Gary Cohen.

**Marc Wernick**, in memory of Agnes Berenstein Schwartz.

**Melanie Kushnir and Alex Davido**, in memory of Agnes Berenstein Schwartz.

**Ron Lezell**, in memory of Agnes Berenstein Schwartz.

**Allan Berenstein**, in memory of Nanci Stern.

**Lonnie Weiss**, in memory of Agnes Berenstein Schwartz.

**Marc Wernick**, in honor of Laura Lowe's becoming bat mitzvah.

## Rabbi's Column

*continued from page 2*

their terms of service and who will be leaving their positions at the end of June. These include: Lyssa Friedman (Vice President), Jacob Rothman and Susan Unger (Va'ad), and Diana Buchbinder (ex-officio member of the Va'ad). Your generosity of time and energy has been an invaluable gift to our community. We cannot begin to appreciate your efforts enough. Your leadership and commitment to partnership has created a solid foundation for our future together. In a very short amount of time, you have enabled me to feel at home and appreciated, as well as empowered to cultivate my own vision and leadership. You have honored my intention to listen and learn as much as I can this year about who we are, where we have come from and where we want to be headed. Todah Rabah! A great many thanks!

I am grateful, as well, for the Va'ad's support in bringing the Alban Institute to our congregation. Now that we've had three congregational meetings to discuss the report and recommendations, we can look forward to implementing some of the ideas.

I continue to feel a deep sense of blessing being here in this amazing congregation. In this month of pride, I wish you and your loved ones joy and jubilation.

See you in shul!

## Aaron Buchbinder

*continued from page 3*

made me more open-minded. I don't really see any barriers between anybody – religion or race or sex or anything."

Aaron plans to continue his Jewish education and involvement throughout his life. "A lot of people at Santa Cruz are Jewish and some people from Midrasha are going. Judaism – especially my experience with Sha'ar Zahav Judaism – is just something that I plan to take on the road with me. It's really helped build my character and I'll have it with me for the rest of my life. When I grow up, hopefully I'll have some kids and I definitely want to take them to Sha'ar Zahav and try to give them the exact experience that I had."

## Synagogue Information

### Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

290 Dolores Street  
415/861-6932 (voice); 415/861-6081 (fax)  
Programming office, 415/575-4961  
Education office, 415/575-4962  
office@shaarzahav.org (email)  
http://www.shhaarzahav.org (web)

### CSZ Staff:

Rabbi, Camille Shira Angel  
- rabbiangel@shaarzahav.org  
Administrator, Lea Salem  
- lsalem@shaarzahav.org  
Program Director, Dahlia Gross  
- cszdahlia@yahoo.com  
Director of Children's Education  
- Riqi Kosovske  
- educator@shaarzahav.org  
Kadimah Head Teacher,  
- Phyllis Mintzer  
Administrative Assistant,  
Melanie Kushnir  
- mkushnir@shaarzahav.org  
Jewish Family Educator,  
Jeni Markowitz  
- familyeducator@shaarzahav.org

### Officers:

President, David Gellman  
(415/550-9449),  
- sfgellman@aol.com or  
- president@shaarzahav.org  
Vice President, Lisa Katz  
Vice President, Lyssa Friedman  
Treasurer, James Carlson  
Recorder, Nancy Kates

### Va'ad (Board) Members:

Diana Buchbinder (ex officio)  
Howard Herman  
Howard Steiermann  
Rose Katz  
Laura Lowe  
Drew Parker-Rose  
Jacob Rothman  
Jeffrey Sherman  
Susan Unger  
Ami Zusman

*Members wishing to contact any Va'ad member or committee chair are invited to obtain her or his number from the synagogue office.*

**Bikkur Cholim:** If you or a friend who is a member of Sha'ar Zahav is ill in the hospital or at home, and would like to have a member of the Bikkur Cholim Committee call or visit, please notify the synagogue office.

### Committee Chairs:

*Adult Education, Ron Edelman and Prudence Carter  
Archives, open  
Baby Havurah, open  
Bequests and Donations, Richard Inlander  
Bikkur Cholim, Allan Berenstein, Avraham Giannini, Eileen Levy, Rachel MacLachlan, Deborah Udin  
Book Group, Mark Mackler  
Building and Grounds, Beth Sousa and Daphne Stuart  
Bylaws, Richard Inlander  
Children's Education Board, Liz Schaffer  
Cemetery, Richard Inlander  
Dor Rishon Brotherhood, open  
Dues, James Carlson, Tiela Chalmers, Lisa Katz, Drew Parker-Rose, Mike Zimmerman  
East Bay Havurah, Ida Kuluk and Larry Wexler  
Endowment Fund, David Stein  
Finance, James Carlson  
Fine Arts, Barbara Cymrot  
Fundraising, Arthur Slepian  
Gift Shop, Jeff Rubin  
Israel Havurah, Ron Lezell and Michal Goralsky  
La'atid, open  
Leadership Development, Paul Cohen  
Library, Bernard Schertzer  
Long-Range Planning, Allan Gold  
Membership/Kesher, Marianne Balin  
Membership Outreach, Tony Harris  
Mishkan Dolores Capital Campaign, Ellie Cohen  
Newsletter, Karen Schiller  
- kschiller@igc.org  
Past Presidents Council, David Stein  
Personnel, Lyssa Friedman  
Public Relations, Sharyn Saslafsky and Marc Wernick  
Rabbi Liaison, Allan Gold  
Ritual, Nicole Bloom  
- bloomn@netscape.net  
Social Action, Laura Lowe and Allan Berenstein  
Toddler/Pre-school Havurah, Deena Lahn  
UAHC National Liaison, Mike Rankin  
UAHC Regional Liaison, Daniel Chesir  
WCGLBJO Liaison, David Gellman  
Web and I.T., Drew Parker-Rose*

*Member of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and the World Congress of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Jewish Organizations.*

## Israel

continued from page 1

mitted to bringing a wide variety of issues related to Israel 'out of the closet' at CSZ, in a supportive context. We recognize that it is not possible, nor necessarily desirable, to reach consensus on political issues relating to Israel. The havurah is dedicated to deepening connections to the people, culture, history and land of Israel."

In that spirit, the havurah decided to pursue two objectives. The first is to forge links with the organized LGBT community in Israel, a vibrant, successful yet struggling community which has sought financial and moral support from the Jewish LGBT community in the United States. Specifically, the Agudah, which is the Israeli LGBT community's umbrella organization, is seeking to increase its international membership, and to borrow gay-positive Jewish rituals and values from its American counterparts in communities like CSZ. You'll be hearing more about the Agudah in future editions of the *Forward*.

A second goal is to bring Israeli culture to the CSZ community. There are a host of opportunities to experience the music, theater, art, literature and food of Israel right here in the Bay Area, and the havurah will be planning some Israel-centered cultural programs for CSZ members in the near future. Other goals include re-establishing CSZ's support for the Reform Zionist Movement (ARZA/World Union for Progressive Judaism), and sponsoring educational forums and debates on issues of importance to Israel.

The next meeting of the havurah, where goals will continue to be refined and an action plan implemented, will take place on Thursday, May 31 at 6:30 pm at CSZ. All CSZ members are invited and encouraged to attend. In the meantime, if you'd like to be included in group emails about the Israel Havurah, please contact Miki and Ron at goralsky@aol.com and rlezell@aol.com.

## Condolences

**Mark Mackler** on the death of his father, Howard Mackler.

**Cindy Icke** on the death of her father, Hyman Icke.

**Danny Kodmur** on the death of his aunt and uncle, Barbara Faye Waxman Fiduccia and Daniel Fiduccia.

**Allan Berenstein** on the death of his mother, Agnes Berenstein Schwartz.

**Geraldine Barr** on the death of her father, Jerome Herschel Barr.

**Daphne Stuart** on the death of her cousin, Andrew West.

## Oneg & Flower Sponsorship

These generous people sponsored the Oneg Shabbat and/or flowers in recent weeks:

4/20 Oneg and Flowers by **Ora Prochovnick and Rena Frantz** in honor of their 18th anniversary and by the family of **Eliana Tali Chalmers Frank** in honor of Eliana's naming ceremony.

5/4 Oneg by **Peter and Denise Hirschmann and friends of Jo Hirschmann and Elizabeth Wilson** in honor of Jo and Elizabeth's engagement blessing.

5/4 Flowers by **Simon Glinsky** in honor of his family's visit.

5/11 Oneg by **Michael Avrut** in appreciation of CSZ.

5/18 Oneg by **Tony Harris** in loving memory of his father, Howard Harris.

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## Classifieds

LOOKING FOR AN "UNCLE MAX" Lesbian mom seeks Jewish childless male role model for my little boy, almost 4. If you desire adventure, exploration and the gift of a child's adoration, please call (415) 824-4266.

### HOUSESITTERS AVAILABLE.

Looking to housesit in SF for a week or two during the summer. Will take excellent care of your home. Please contact Lea Salem in the CSZ office at 415-861-6932 or lsalem@shaarzahav.org for information.

### NEED A HOME:

CSZ Program Director and her two well behaved canine friends, Pablo and Spirit, need a home. Please contact Dahlia Gross at cszdahlia@yahoo.com or 415/575-4961 with any leads.

### HEBREW/TORAH TROPE INSTRUCTION.

Private tutoring/groups. Over 100 satisfied customers since 1999! Contact Kenny Altman at 415-379-9783, kennylaltman@kennylaltman.com.

### ALL THINGS MACINTOSH:

Internet making you crazy? Mysterious freezes? Troubleshooter for hire! Improve Performance. Software Support/Tutoring/& More. References. Roslyn 510/526-1209

### PSYCHOTHERAPY:

Life transition, grief and loss, HIV/AIDS, substance use, mood disorder, dot-com angst. Jody Reiss, LCSW (#LCS15289), 415-401-9482.

### SEEKING SUMMER HOUSE-SIT:

Former CSZ member and Bat Mitzvah, now in college, is seeking house-sitting or sublet for the summer. Care for your plants and dogs, available from mid-June to mid-September. Contact via email to drbillinkoff@amherst.edu

## June Anniversaries

2 Beth Ross and Laura Trupin  
Lillian Schaechner and  
Elaine Weissman  
7 Stephanie Godt and  
Ellen Novogrodsky  
9 Joe Hample and  
Reineres Susbilla  
10 Steven Diller and  
Ira Johnson  
Frank Yellin and  
Mark Showalter  
Eric Temple and  
Garry Schermann  
13 Dan Bellm and  
Rabbi Yoel Kahn  
16 Lisa Ochs and Lea Salem  
18 Rabbi Eric Weiss and  
Dan Alpert  
19 Dana Vinicoff and  
Sarah Peterson  
21 Shelley M. Samuels  
and Robin Dubner  
24 Lyssa Friedman and  
Daphne Stuart  
25 Shelley Adler and  
Nancy Showen  
Sue Bojdak and Deb Yates  
Beth Rubin and David Wish

## Members' Yahrzeits

2 Mark Feldman  
8 Robert Nehemiah Mackey  
9 Duff Kreitzberg  
14 Mirtha Beal  
16 Richard Rath  
17 Joe Zygielbaum  
20 Bill Valentine

## East Bay Services

**Friday, June 15, 7:15 pm**

Vegetarian potluck, candle lighting and zimrot

Jeanette Nichols

3865 Forrest Hill Ave. Oakland

510/531-4885

## June Birthdays

1 Donald Abrams  
2 Neil Silverzweig  
Nina Wouk  
4 Hanya Barth  
Marc Haberman  
Ora Prochovnick  
Lea Salem  
5 Rick Crane  
Katy Gulley  
Gregory Ramos  
6 Ma'ayan Barr Epstein  
Adina Barr Epstein  
Marsha Blachman  
8 Marianne Balin  
Brian Besser  
9 Bobbie Becker  
Lucy Cefalu  
Laura Lowe  
Glenn Shor  
10 Claudia Bernard  
Daniel Chesir  
Rose Katz  
11 Annie Winters  
12 Susan Simpson  
13 Rachel Pruyn Goldstein  
15 Steve Wiesner  
16 Michael Hockman  
Christopher Hornby-Finch  
Nancy Levin  
Monica Levin  
Shayna Prochovnick  
17 Adam Bellm Kahn  
Wayne Bender  
Pieter de Haan  
18 Susan Lubeck  
19 Jim Cohen  
Miki Goralsky  
20 Susan Mizner  
Larry Wexler  
21 Leyna Bernstein  
Eileen Levy  
Richard Sinkoff  
22 Sarita Groisser  
Margaret Rosoff  
Marc Wernick  
23 Deborah Agre  
Sacha Fisher  
Nicole Grace  
Lou Hirschmann  
25 Dyan Dreisbach  
Steve Weiner

## Naches

To Jo Hirschmann and Elizabeth Wilson  
on their engagement blessing.

To Carol M. Cantwell on graduating with  
honors in Economics from San Francisco  
State University.

To Beth Rubin on finishing her Ph.D. in  
Social Cultural Studies in Education at  
Berkeley and being appointed to a faculty  
position at Rutgers University, Graduate  
School of Education. (We will miss  
you David and Maya!)

To Michael Schwartz on receiving a post-  
doctoral fellowship in Neuropsychology  
at SF General Hospital.

To Ben Bank on becoming a United States  
citizen.

To José Luis Moscovich on being named  
Interim Executive Director of the San  
Francisco County Transportation Authority.

To Aaron Buchbinder on being accepted  
to the University of California, Santa Cruz  
and for graduating with honors from Sa-  
cred Heart.

To Jeff Friedman on passing his qualify-  
ing exams to become ABD in his Ph.D.  
program and for cutting the cord of his  
new nephew, Daniel Ilan.

To Emily Newfield on being accepted in-  
to the UCSF-UCB Joint Medical Program,  
a combined MS and MD degree program.

To Leyna Bernstein on her new position  
as Director of Consulting Services at the  
Management Center.

To Alison Austin on adding a new partner,  
LaCheryl E. Porter, to her law firm,  
The Austin Law Group.

To Emily Newfield and Rachael Riley  
on their wedding.

To Rose Mallia on her entrance into the  
Covenant.

26 Marc Lipschutz  
27 Amanda Littauer  
28 Lisa Katz  
29 Emma Buchbinder  
Eve Meyer